



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Corps regulatory officials encourage developers, landowners to obtain permits *before* doing work in streams and wetlands

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Developers and landowners who make modifications to stream banks and wetlands without a Regulatory Program permit may find themselves in legal hot water, advise U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulatory officials administering the federal program in Idaho.

“Recently, we have received numerous reports of unauthorized activities in rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands in northern Idaho,” noted Brad Daly, Walla Walla District’s Regulatory Division chief. “We just want to remind people that conducting certain activities in waters of the United States without a permit may be illegal. People wanting to do work in and along rivers, streams and wetlands should check with state and federal officials to see if they need a permit *before* they actually do any work.”

Whether it’s a case of a landowner who wants to stabilize a stream bank to prevent erosion, placing fill material into a waterway or wetland area for residential, commercial or public development, or constructing a dock or marina, the first step in the work plan should be checking to see if a permit would be required, according to Corps regulatory specialists in Idaho.

“We’re here to help people understand what they need to do to meet the legal requirements of doing work in wetlands and waterways,” said Gregg Rayner, environmental resource specialist at the Corps’ regulatory field office in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. “We encourage people to contact us well before they plan to do work in waters and wetlands, so we can help them avoid doing something that might violate state or federal laws that govern construction activities in those areas.”

The Walla Walla District administers the Regulatory Program in the State of Idaho under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Under these laws, a permit is required for most construction activities in waterways and wetlands. These include lakes and ponds, as well as intermittent and perennial rivers, streams, and creeks, Daly explained.

“We do all we can to streamline permit coordination with other federal, state and local agencies, and the public,” said Daly. “And when it comes down to it, the permit application process is typically a lot less troublesome than having to pay a fine and/or mitigate for doing construction in a federally protected area without a permit. Our regulatory specialists are there to help people stay in compliance with the law – just give them a call.”

The District’s Regulatory Division has eight project managers located in Idaho field offices in Coeur d’Alene, Boise and Idaho Falls, as well as the District headquarters in Walla Walla, Wash.

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Some proposed projects are not authorized in areas where federally listed, endangered or threatened species live until consultation is completed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service. In emergency situations, such as flooding, this may be expedited by using emergency consultation procedures. In addition, there may be regional and water quality certification conditions that may apply. Because of this, it is recommended people contact Corps and state regulatory officials for permit requirements relating to their specific situation.

“Often, questions may be answered over the telephone with little or no paperwork,” said Daly. “In some cases, a regulatory specialist may be available to meet on-site to inspect problems and discuss permit requirements. We make every effort to expedite required permits.”

A free information packet that explains permit requirements, and an application form is available on the District’s Web site, www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/rfhome.htm. For more information or to request this packet, contact the Corps regulatory office nearest you:

For work in Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah counties, contact Gregg Rayner at (208) 765-7256, Mike Doherty at (208) 765-7237, or Beth Reinhart at (208) 765-7440, in the Coeur d’Alene Regulatory Office.

For work in Latah, Nez Perce, Lewis, Clearwater and Idaho counties, contact Duane Mitchell at 509-527-7156, at the Walla Walla District Headquarters.

For work in Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, and Owyhee counties, contact Greg Martinez at (208) 345-2154 or Eric Gerke at (208) 345-2286, in the Boise Regulatory Office.

For work in Camas, Blaine, Minidoka, Cassia, Gooding, Lincoln, Jerome, Twin Falls, Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bingham, Bonneville, Power, Oneida, Bannock, Caribou, Franklin, and Bear Lake counties, contact Rob Brochu (208) 522-1645 or James Joyner at (208) 522-1676, in the Idaho Falls Regulatory Office.

Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) may also require permits. The Corps and Idaho State agencies cooperate to expedite permit applications for all water resource related permits.